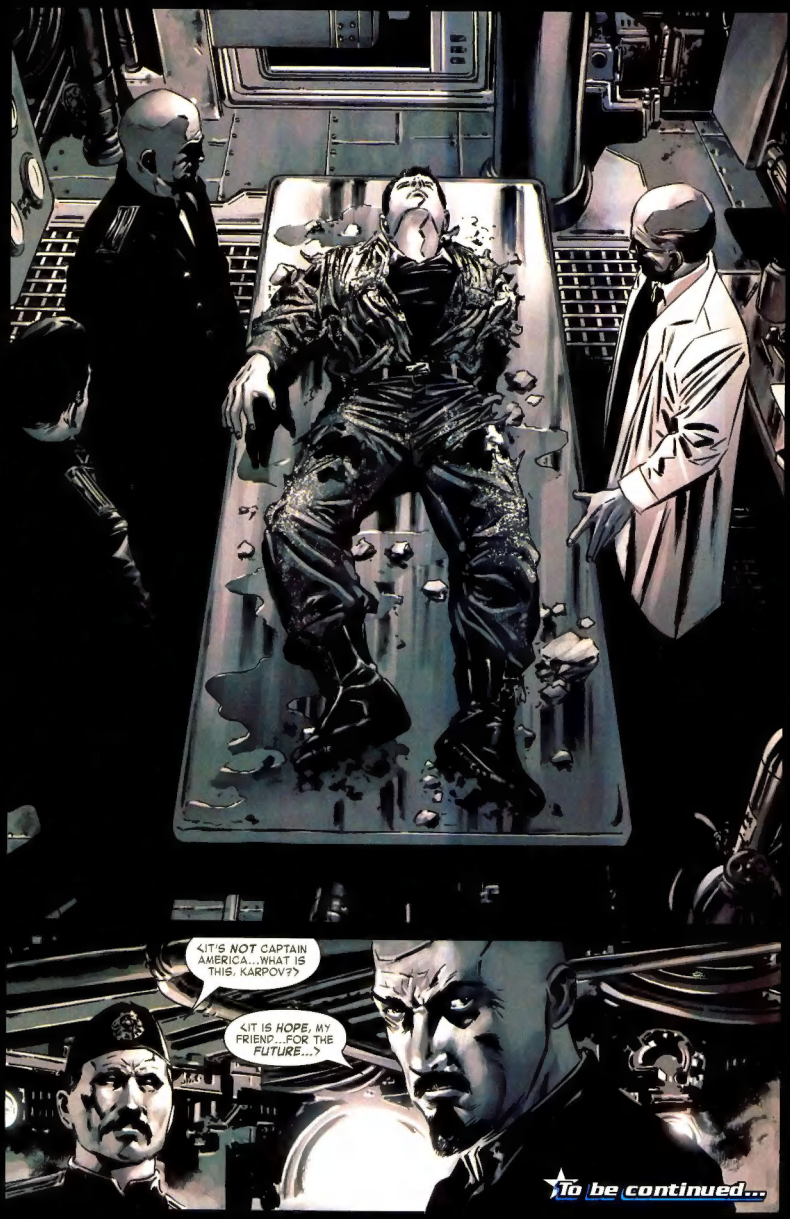
April 1945, the English Channel, near the Channel Islands
<ANYTHING?>
<I CANNOT BE SURE, COMRADE... THIS TIME OF YEAR THERE IS MUCH ICE IN THE WATER...>
<AND WE HAVE NOT TESTED THIS NEW SONAR SYSTEM YET, SO-->
<WE MUST BE ON OUR WAY. THESE WATERS ARE CLOSELY GUARDED BY THE BRITISH. IF THEY FIND US SNEAKING THROUGH THEM WITHOUT ALLIED APPROVAL...?>
<DON'T BE A COWARD, SMISLOV. THIS IS THE FINEST VESSEL IN THE SOVIET FLEET. OUR SONAR SHIELDING IS BETTER THAN EVEN OUR ALLIES COULD HOPE FOR... >
<NOT THAT THEY'LL EVER HEAR OF IT.>
<FORGIVE ME, BUT WE'RE RISKING SO MUCH ON A FOOL'S ERRAND. WHAT CHANCE DO WE--?>
<COMRADE KARPOV!>
"<THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE.>"


<IT'S *NOT* CAPTAIN AMERICA...WHAT IS THIS, KARPOV?>
<IT IS *HOPE*, MY FRIEND...FOR THE *FUTURE*...>
To be continued...

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Welcome back, gang, for the first round of letters about Cap 6, which were much more positive than I expected them to be. Hunh... Who'd've thought we could do that and not get bomb threats? There's no "question of the month" this time for a variety of reasons, but it will return next month. Anyway, on to the letters...

Great way to close the first arc!

If I were to point out the ONE thing I didn't like it would be Agent Tapper's demise. Not knowing the character beforehand, his passing didn't have the emotional impact that it should have. Although my eyebrows shot up when he revealed he was dating Agent 13. Here's hoping we see the effect the news of his death will have on Carter.

Re: Bucky's Return (or not): If I read the recent Newsarama article interviewing Ed Brubaker correctly, this may (or may not) be Bucky, and my thoughts on it are echoed by Norman Peterson (partly from Cheesy) every time there was a change of management at the bar: "Sammy, are you gonna raise the price of beer?" And by that I mean, "Ed, is bringing him back (or not) gonna spoil a good story?" If it doesn't then have at it. 'Cause, frankly, in the end that is all that matters. A good and entertaining story. (Uh, that and if Marvel's gonna raise the price of comics again. >wink<) Awesome run so far. Can't wait for the next arc!

R. Cruz
(via e-mail)

I'm not sure I see the analogy, but I promise you that Marvel will never raise the price of beer.

Hello, Keepers of the Red, White and Blue. I've got to congratulate the whole team on the excellent job you're doing on CAPTAIN AMERICA. I've been working at a comic shop for the past five years and have seen not only the various contemporary interpretations of the Sentinel of Liberty, but have had the chance to peruse some of his classic adventures, and I have to report that this is some of the best writing, art and even editing that I've seen. I sincerely hope that Ed Brubaker and Steve Epting find a way to keep doing more CAPTAIN AMERICA for much longer than the standard 6 to 12 issues. At work, I've been recommending CAPTAIN AMERICA to anyone who shows an interest in mystery/adventure stories. Also, it's incredibly awesome that Ed Brubaker is responding to the wisely re-installed letters pages personally. No offense to any of the editors, but it's always exciting to hear from the creators themselves (I love the question of the month) and get their personal opinions. I just finished reading issue 6 and can't wait for the next one!

I have a small request. I'm a huge MODOK fan and was wondering if it is possible for you guys to maybe have him appear in a future issue. It would be sweet to see a Steve Epting or a Michael Lark MODOK facing off against Cap. Keep up the good work. You guys have earned my endorsement to my customers.

Michael Eriksson
Pleasant Hill, CA

Well, I hope the new Steve Epting designed Modoc Squad satisfied your craving a bit this time out, at least. We may see Modok himself at some point down the road, but I really felt that AIM needed a more active combat team to go up against our hero, since the pill-heads look great, but can't fight for $@#$ apparently. As for me and Steve, can't promise anything other than that we'll be here as long as we're able to, which I'm guessing will be a long time, especially with sales going up every issue.

Now, I haven't been reading comics forever, and I may not know who Nomad is either. But I do know who Bucky is. The original Bucky, not that Rick Jones character. And I have to say, wow. The good thing, and sometimes bad thing, about Marvel Comics is that if a character dies in a Marvel comic book, then, no worry, about 50 or 60 years later, he'll turn up. I am glad to see Bucky again, although I'm not sure what killing Red Skull will do to the Captain America universe.
My dad has told me about his days of comic collecting, and I have a few ESSENTIAL AVENGERS, so I pretty much know about Captain America's re-introduction into society in the '60s. I have always found Cap to be interesting. I started reading CAPTAIN AMERICA about a month or two after 9-11, but never have I stumbled onto better stories than the ones you've been giving me lately. Thanks.

Forrest Roberts
(via e-mail)

Well, thanks. As for how the Skull's death affects things, keep watching. Like, next issue, even.

HOLY CAP! I can't believe what I just read! That's some serious "Luke, I am your father" stuff. Bucky? Wow. I have followed Cap for about a decade now. My favorite incarnation of Cap has been the Waid/Garney stuff. I never thought anything would equal the "Man Without A Country," or "Operation: Rebirth" story arcs, but you are well on your way! I hope to see you delve into what Bucky has been up to, how he turned bad, or how he survived for that matter. Keep up the killer writing. You guys are doing an awesome job on the book.

T. Daniels
Tacoma, WA

That's what this whole arc will be about. Assuming, of course, that the Winter Soldier is actually Bucky. Now, excuse me while I go have a maniacal laugh.

I've decided to write to the comics I feel something for and appreciate. Let me first explain though that Cap was always way down on my list of Marvel favorites. My preference always led me to Daredevil, Iron Man, Spider-Man, Hulk and X-Men. I didn't even much like the Avengers.

So what makes this new series different for me? Well I picked up issue one, then got hooked enough to get issue two. From then on I found myself unconsciously anticipating each new issue and discovered each one had something interesting and gave me an aspect of Cap that I really liked and wanted to see more of.

So in essence, I really like everything about this new series, from the writing, the dialogue, the intriguing storyline, characters and the mood to the all the artwork. Keep up the great work and keep those twists and turns coming. You've made yourself a new Cap A fan.

Oh, if I can interject one wish; I'd love to see a lot more of Cap during WWII. You've done a great job of showing us this already, and I'd love to see more of it.

Nick N.
Toronto

Glad to see we've hooked you, Nick. I hope to do more WW2 stuff myself – stay tuned.

I have to admit that I was disappointed to see Bucky revealed as the cybernetic killer. I always found that Bucky and Gwen Stacy were the two characters that should've been left alone forever, instead of returning to them decades later, destroying their reputations. After Gwen was taken care of, it looks like it's Bucky's turn now. Somehow this whole "kill character, introduce replacement, remove replacement, bring back character" stuff is getting kinda ridiculous these days. I feel like I'm reading the same story over and over again. Well, the book still looks great, and it still is great...somehow. Next issue there's going to be Nomad, so I'll be there anyway.

Lars Meyer
Germany

Well, Lars, I'm glad you're sticking around, in any case, because I promise you that our story is not like any of the ones you're thinking of. For one thing, Bucky does NOT sleep with the Red Skull and have twins. For another, he--oh, you get the idea...

I didn't want to like this comic. I wanted to BLAME the new CAPTAIN AMERICA series for the demise of CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON. I wanted to HATE this title when Jack Monroe turned up dead. If all this weren't enough, I wanted to write off this comic as silly when signs pointed to Bucky being the killer. I'm sure the "but" is easy to guess. Like so many other Cap fans I loved this book. I absolutely adore it. The art is tremendous, the writing is top notch, and more than anything else, whether an issue is flashback, dialog, or tons of action, it always moves the story forward. This is going to be an exciting ride, no matter what the outcome of the tale.

However, after all of this glowing praise, I have to comment on one glaring error. On the images released to the web this morning via multiple online comics news resources (Newsarama and Comics Continuum to name a few) I saw the very cool variant cover for the CAPTAIN AMERICA #6 reprint. I am surprised by how much I enjoy the cover because I never buy variants, but I plan to reserve one. That being said, I hope this is not the cover image to be printed. I say this because the image that is taken from the background of the standard cover image (the explosion, the Nazi Island castle base, the drone plane, Cap and Bucky on the motorcycle and the soldiers shooting at them) is incomplete. The tail fin of the drone plane is cut where it should continue past the propeller. Whether or not the flub is corrected, kudos to the marketing genius that came up with this idea for a variant cover, because it seems to actually serve a purpose.

I must say, as a longtime CAPTAIN AMERICA fan with a collection that spans 3 decades with every CAPTAIN AMERICA comic published in that time, I have never been more excited to read about the star-spangled sentinel of liberty. Keep it up, Messrs. Brubaker, Epting, D'Armata and Brevoort (and everyone else involved). You'd make Jack and Joe proud.

Jared M. Jones

And we have our first No-Prize winner at Freedom of Speech! That was indeed an error on the reprint of Cap 6, but Joe Quesada told me that error just makes the book all that much rarer, whatever that means.

That's the letters for this month, but join us next month for the all-out assault of General Lukin's private paradise, and keep those letters coming!

Ed Brubaker

AUBREY SITTERSON & MOLLY LAZER
ASST. EDITORS

ANDY SCHMIDT
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF

FREEDOM OF SPEECH C/O MARVEL COMICS
417 5TH AVE., NEW YORK, NY 10016

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